

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

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Miriam Rises Anew

Miriam Quiambao returns to Manila to revive her career as a television host after ending almost three years of marriage with Italian businessman

Page 5



Serving the Queen

Guess who was at the 80th birthday lunch of Queen Elizabeth II last week? Apart from royalty and other dignitaries, a Filipina met with the British monarch for the second time.

Page 6



GMA rushed to hospital



Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo gestures during Independence Day celebrations at Manila's Rizal Park in this June 12, 2006 file photo.

Arroyo hospitalized with diarrhea, given fluids, doctors say

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, hospitalized overnight for abdominal pain, suffered from acute diarrhea and was given intravenous fluids to recover, doctors said Friday, adding she will stay a "little longer" in a hospital.

Arroyo, 59, was taken to St. Luke's Medical Center late Thursday after returning from a restaurant to the presidential palace where she was examined by a doctor, Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said. He and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita both said "overfatigue" may have been a contributing factor.

"With that problem of diarrhea and vomiting ... we decided to hydrate her," said Dr. Juliet Cervantes, a gastroenterologist. "Our diagnosis is acute infectious diarrhea, probably secondary to a viral infection that had already been resolved. Presently the patient is comfortable.

"She can be discharged anytime; however, with the request of the family, she will stay a little longer."

GMA Page 2

Tuloy-Aral says thanks to NMI donors

By MARCONI CALINDAS
REPORTER

The CNMI Overseas Workers Welfare Administration has started distributing appreciation letters to some 84 Tuloy-Aral sponsors here in the Commonwealth.

According to OWWA, the "thank you" letters were signed by Secretary Marianito Roque from the OWWA head office in Manila.

In his letter, Roque said that the head office gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship made by Filipino workers in the CNMI for the less fortunate schoolchildren in the Philippines.

The OWWA on Saipan has hit another record by recruiting 84 individuals and groups in the CNMI for this year's edition of

TULOY-ARAL Page 2

BUTCH SUBLEMENTE

Wearing the CNMI's colors

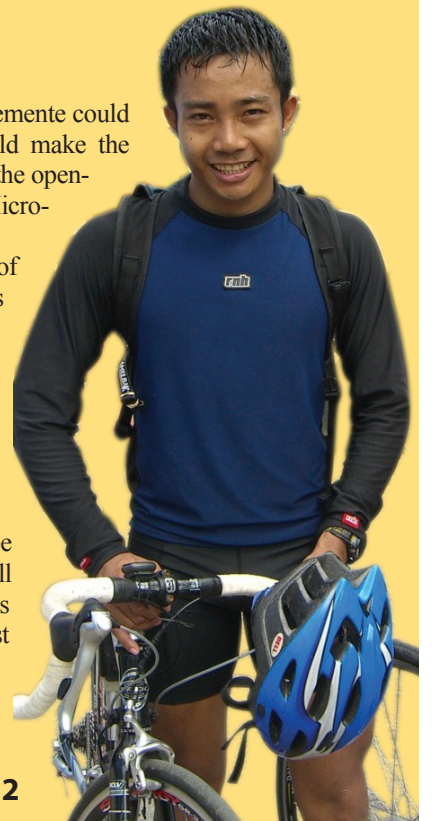
By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

If triathlete Butch Sublemente could have his way, he would make the Olympic-distance race the opening event of the 6th Micronesian Games.

Sublemente, one of the four individuals who will represent the Commonwealth in Tuesday's triathlon event, is so pumped up for the competition that three days seems too long a wait.

"I'm so excited to be on the team. We've all been training for this and I feel I'm in my best condition right now. I wish we could have the race tomorrow [Saturday]," he says in

WEARING Page 2



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PINOYNEWS

Filipinos volunteer for Micro Games

In support of the 6th Micronesian Games on Saipan, representatives from different Filipino groups spent their early evenings the past week to help spruce up the Ada Gym in Susupe.

United Filipino Organization vice president Bong Malasarte said yesterday that UFO members and the MDX radio club took part in repainting the Ada gym interior walls and flooring and the parking area.

The Filipino volunteers also

helped in the gym roof's repair.

"After work, we would go there to help," said Malasarte.

He said about 15 to 20 Filipinos came each night at the gym, which is the main venue of the Micronesian Games.

He said the MDX Amateur Radio Club will also assist in the communications during the event for basketball games.

Malasarte said that another group of Filipino volunteers are engaged in the cleanup drive.

He said the CNMI Power,

headed by UFO president Corie Borja, handles the cleanup project. Two new Filipino organizations, including Pilcoa, are also part of the cleanup activity.

He said volunteers are assigned to pick up trash and ensure cleanliness at the sports venues, as well as at the Marianas High School, which serves as the athletes' village.

Malasarte said these efforts are a show of support to the local community's hosting of the

regional games.

"We support them in hosting the MicroGames. This kind of event helps the economy and the people here," he said.

The 6th Micronesian Games, which is being held on Saipan from June 23 to July 2, is attended by hundreds of athletes and officials from the Micronesia—Guam, Palau, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia which includes Phonpei, Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae. *(Liberty Dones)*

GMA

FROM PAGE 1

ger in the hospital," likely until Saturday, she said.

"She's tolerating her food. She has no problem at all," Cervantes told reporters.

"I don't think this is anything to worry about," the president's eldest son, Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, said

after visiting his mother Friday morning.

Another early visitor, a town mayor from Arroyo's home province of Pampanga, said she was smiling and appeared "happy and healthy" as she underwent medical checks early Friday.

"It stemmed from stress," Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo said.

Police in the capital, already on a heightened state of alert amid possible bomb attacks, were upgraded to full alert after Arroyo fell ill "so there is a stabilizing factor ... to deliver the message that there's no cause for alarm," metropolitan Manila police chief Vidal Querol said.

Coup rumors have recently swirled. The president, who has gone from crisis to crisis during

five years in power, has said security forces foiled a plot to overthrow her in February.

Ermita said the president had been at a restaurant in suburban Quezon City for an early birthday party for her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo. His birthday is next week, but Arroyo was scheduled to leave Saturday night for a trip to Italy, the Vatican and Spain.

TULOY-ARAL

FROM PAGE 1

the OWWA Tuloy-Aral Project.

Last year, the Tuloy Aral Project in the CNMI ranked No. 1 among OWWA offices in the world after it managed to recruit

31 foster parents. As of now, there is no word yet from the OWWA head office in the Philippines if the CNMI is once again leading the race for garnering the most foster children among other OWWA posts in the world.

In her breakdown of program

beneficiaries in the Philippines, OWWA welfare officer Mary Dait said there are 59 children beneficiaries from the National Capital Region, five from the Cordillera Administrative Region, two from Region 1, three from Region 2, seven from Re-

gion 6, four from Region 7, one from Region 8, and three from Caraga province.

The Tuloy Aral Project is an OWWA project not only in the CNMI but also in other parts of the world where there are OWWA offices. It aims to help children of former overseas Filipino workers and other needy children in the Philippines fulfill their dream of continuing their education. With the money, the children will be provided school necessities such as notebooks, pens, pads, bags, and books, among others.

Dait said that the Tan Holdings Employees Volunteers Group comprises the most number of donors for this school year, with at least 35 members sponsoring less fortunate

children in their elementary education. There are other Tan Holdings employees who are not members of the volunteer group who are also supporting the project by adopting foster children themselves.

Dait said that, through the \$100 sponsorship, the education of the beneficiaries would be smoother and more rewarding.

"We'd like to thank the sponsors for their generosity," said Dait, adding that she is commending the assistance of volunteers and OWWA-OFW Support Group officers Dang Bernabe and Dr. Gabe De Guzman for "really working hard to meet our target of 100 this year."

She said that her office is still open to those who want to extend their assistance and

help to impoverished children in the Philippines. There are no requirements to extend help to the students, said Dait. When an individual has expressed his interest in helping out, the CNMI OWWA office calls the Manila Office so that it could allot a recipient from the Philippines. The OWWA office will then notify the CNMI office to confirm the sponsorship.

OWWA launched the project in December 2004 for schoolchildren to continue their elementary and high school education in the Philippines.

For more information on how to extend assistance, donors can visit the OWWA office located at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (formerly the Nauru Building) in Susupe.

'Midterm elections will measure support for Philippines' Arroyo'

By **OLIVER TEVES**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Next year's congressional elections will measure public support for President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and should not be scrapped as proposed by the administration, a citizens' group opposed to constitutional change said Thursday.

A new set of senators and congressmen with a fresh mandate in 2007 could decide whether Arroyo should be allowed to finish her term in 2010, said Christian Monsod, a former Elections Commission chief. Arroyo survived an impeachment bid last year on vote-rigging and corruption allegations.

He said the country could not afford the political fallout from yearly impeachment proceedings, and "that's why we are saying that we should find a way to find closure on this issue."

Arroyo has endorsed recommendations by a 55-member Consultative Commission she created to propose amendments to the 18-year-old Constitution to shift from a U.S.-style presidential bicameral system to a parliamentary government.

A key recommendation is scrapping the 2007 election and extending legislators' terms so they can serve as members of an interim parliament until 2010.

Monsod said "a credible 2007 election can be an indirect referendum" on Arroyo as reflected by the number of opposition and pro-administration legislators who are elected.

MIDTERM Page 3

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WEARING

FROM PAGE 1

an interview only hours before Friday's Micro Games opening rites.

His enthusiasm sounds even more astounding when he relates the opportune events that led to his qualifying for the CNMI triathlon team.

Although a bike enthusiast since he was a child growing up in the Philippine city of Puerto Princesa, Sublemente only took up running as a sport about eight years ago, when he met fellow athlete Yoshi Suzuki at work in Summer Holiday Hotel. Suzuki, who will also be competing in the Micro Games' long distance and cross-country events, had encouraged him to join marathons.

Sublemente debuted at the 1999 Silver Streak Memorial Fun Run/Walk, an annual event sponsored by DFS Galleria. "I didn't do very well. I finished the race, but I was probably one of the last ones

to do so," he recalls.

His unspectacular first race, however, did not deter him from pursuing the sport. He kept on training and joining race after race, setting self-improvement as his only goal. His determination and hard work did not go unrewarded. Eventually, he improved his ranking and even won several races in his age division.

This year's athletic events saw a much improved Sublemente, when he did the entire swim-bike-run course for the first time in the Xterra Saipan Championship and again in the Tagaman Triathlon.

"Those two were tough competitions for me. I used to do just the bike course because I couldn't swim. I tried teaching myself by swimming in shallow water, but it wasn't good enough. I only started getting formal swimming lessons last February," Sublemente narrates.

Although his swimming still needs much improvement,

Sublemente showed a worthy performance in the two races, owing to his running and biking skills.

Joining the qualifying competitions for the CNMI's Micro Games team is another story. Sublemente, who had only planned on participating in the short distance qualifiers, unwittingly got on the team after his friend and sponsor Joshua Berger signed him up for the Olympic-distance course, twice.

"It's a rare opportunity and I'm happy to be able to represent the CNMI. I feel somewhat a beginner, but I'm going to do my best. It also helps to have [fellow triathlete and team captain] Dirk Sharer and the other guys in the team," he says.

The triathlon event will start at 7pm Tuesday at Paupau Beach in Marpi. It will include a 1.5-km. ocean swim, 40-km. run bike and a 10-km run.

Sublemente hopes the community will come out and support all the athletes.

LABOR FRONT**Labor complaints**By **FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE**
REPORTER

Q: If an alien worker files a labor complaint, who will handle the investigation? How long will a complainant wait before Labor takes action?

A: Upon receiving a complaint, the Labor director or his or her designee shall immediately conduct a preliminary investigation—if the director deems it appropriate. At the conclusion of the preliminary probe or intake, the Labor director or his or her designee shall refer the complainant to the Labor Administrative Hearing Office to set a mediation session.

□ □ □

Q: What will happen if the parties involved in the case fail to resolve the issues during the mediation proceedings in the Labor Administrative Hearing Office?

A: The Labor Administrative Hearing Office will notify the Labor director or his or her designee about the unsuccessful mediation. According to the Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, the Labor director or his or her designee shall assign the complaint to a case investigator.

The case investigator will determine if there has been a violation of the Nonresident Workers Act, the Minimum Wage and Hour Act, a breach of any provision of the agreement or contract entered into by the employer or nonresident worker, any other document filed with the Division of Labor as part of a labor application, and conditions or practices of the housing standards of the worker.

The results of such investigation shall be available to the parties when the determination of violation is issued to the Administrative Hearing Office. The Administrative Hearing Office is not allowed to release any information to any individual who is not a party or who is not listed as an authorized counsel or representative of a party.

□ □ □

Q: What will happen if the Labor director issues a determination of violation after completing the investigation of the complaint?

A: If the Labor issues a determination of violation, the caption on the determination of violation and request for a hearing shall be amended to add the Division of Labor as a party-complainant in the case. The director, at his or her discretion, may refer any case in which the Division of Labor is a party to the assistant attorney general assigned at Labor.

Submit questions on labor issues to *Saipan Tribune* via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the *Saipan Tribune's* office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.

CNMI Power cleans up welcome sign at airport

Filipino organization CNMI Power recently teamed up with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to clean up the welcome sign at the Saipan airport in preparation for this week's Micronesian Games.

Corie Borja, president of CNMI Power, said: "We partnered with the Chamber on this project as part of our efforts to join in beautifying the island for our visitors. We wanted to be part of this effort and, through this cleanup, we can do our part in making the Micronesian Games successful for everyone."

Besides cutting back the overhanging brush and cleaning up the area around the sign, the group also spruced up the sign by removing the peeling paint and repainting the entire sign.

Visitors to Saipan will now be welcomed with a clean and re-

painted "Hafa Adai - Welcome to Saipan!" sign while driving from the airport. And as they leave, the backside of the same sign will wish them "Adios - Please Come Back".

"It is now a prominent and positive welcome to everyone visiting Saipan," said Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Christine Parke.

The welcome sign was a project of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross, also supported the effort.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. With over 140 business members, the Chamber is an association aligned to make a difference in the Commonwealth community. (PR)

POLO reminds Filipino community of new coursesBy **MARCONI CALINDAS**
REPORTER

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office is reminding all interested overseas Filipino workers to enroll in its free Skills Upgrade and Training program this July.

POLO Labor Representative Joanne Lourdes Lavilla told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that registration is still ongoing for the three courses that will be offered.

Lavilla said there would be two Basic Computer Skills training courses, one for Building and Fixing Computer and one for

Peachtree Accounting courses.

Lavilla said the Building and Fixing Computer class would begin on July 1, 2006. The weekly session will be held every Saturday, 6-9pm, at the Marianas Business Plaza (formerly the Nauru Building) in Susupe.

The basic computer operations class will be offered every Sunday beginning July 2, 2006. There will be morning sessions from 9am to 12nn, and afternoon sessions from 1pm to 4pm.

Classes on Peachtree Accounting will also be conducted

every Friday starting on July 7, 2006, from 6pm to 9pm.

The courses will run for eight to nine weekends, with a maximum of 30 students per class.

Lavilla is encouraging all Filipino workers in the CNMI to sign up for the classes. Students are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Enrollees who have not been included in previous classes will be given top priority in new class offerings.

Individuals who complete any of the training programs will receive a certificate from the Philippine Consulate Gen-

eral and POLO.

On June 3, 2006, over 90 workers were given certificates of graduation during a ceremony at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. The ceremony coincided with the 2006 Philippine Migrant Workers' Day celebration.

There were 28 workers who completed the basic Nihonggo course, and 29 others who completed the basic computer operations course. A basic automotive troubleshooting course had 21 graduates, while an advanced sewing course had 14 graduates.

MIDTERM

FROM PAGE 2

"If indeed there will be an impeachment after that election, then that must be accepted," said Monsod, a leader of the

anti-constitutional change movement One Voice launched Thursday in Manila.

The group includes most of the country's Roman Catholic bishops, some businesspeople, academics and Arroyo critics.

"If there is no successful impeachment after the 2007 elections, then we should allow the president to continue her term and finish up to 2010 and must in fact work together for a social reform

program," Monsod said.

Arroyo said the current system causes gridlocks that prevent the government from addressing the country's main problems—poverty and economic underdevelopment.

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Maguindanao blast kills 5, wounds 10

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A car bomb exploded in a public market in a southern Philippine town early Friday as a convoy carrying a provincial governor was passing by, killing five people wounding 10 others, authorities said.

The governor, Andal Ampatuan, was unhurt, local army commander Col. Felipe Tabas said.

The blast at 7:30 a.m. (2330 GMT Thursday) rocked the busy market in Shariff Aguad in Maguindanao province, about

900 kilometers (560 miles) southeast of Manila, he said.

He said the bomb was placed in or under a minibus parked nearby, which was loaded with fireworks.

Among the five killed were two relatives of the governor, said provincial administrator Norie Unas. At least 10 other people were wounded, most of them passers-by, police said.

Ampatuan's son, Zaldy, is the governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which was created after a large

Muslim separatist group signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996. A splinter group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, has continued to wage a separatist rebellion, although it signed a cease-fire agreement three years ago amid ongoing peace talks.

Al-Qaida-linked militants also are active in the area.

Andal Ampatuan Jr., a son of the governor, blamed "terrorists" for the attempt on his father's life. He did not elaborate.

Police on heightened alert in Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The 17,000-strong police force went on alert in the Philippine capital Thursday amid intelligence reports that Muslim militants may try to stage bomb attacks, a senior official said.

Metropolitan Manila police chief Vidal Querol said police "have been receiving recurring reports on new threats" by al-Qaida-linked groups Jemaah Islamiyah, Abu Sayyaf and the Rajah Solaiman Movement.

"Our report is that the terrorists will try to launch activities, including bombing. We have

no idea where they are, but Metro Manila is a probable target," Querol told reporters.

Police in the past have often declared heightened alerts, citing similar intelligence reports, as a precaution.

Querol said security operatives were coordinating preventive measures with owners of commercial establishments, particularly hotels and shopping malls.

"This should be no cause for alarm. You can go on with your routine, shop, see a movie," he said.



LIBERALS FORUM

Former President Corazon C. Aquino, right, listens as Jay Kun Yoo, second left, a member of the South Korean National Assembly, raises a point while European Parliament Member Graham Watson looks on during the opening ceremony of the Meeting of Asian Liberals and Democrats Thursday, June 22, 2006 in Manila. Liberals and Democrats gather to discuss pressing issues and to give liberal responses for their solutions.

7 men get death sentence for kidnapping

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court on Thursday imposed a death sentence on seven men convicted of kidnapping days before the government was expected to give final approval to a law abolishing capital punishment.

Judge Manuel Barrios of the Manila Regional Trial Court said he was imposing the death sentence since the anti-death penalty bill passed recently by Congress has not yet been signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Barrios, however, said the sentence "shall be modified accordingly in the event of the subsequent approval and effectivity of that law."

According to court records, the kidnap gang barged into a Chinese temple in March 1999 and robbed the place before seizing the 12-year-old son of its caretaker and the family's maid.

The kidnapers demanded a 10 million peso (US\$188,679; €149,365) ransom but later agreed on 150,000 pesos (US\$2,830; €2,240). Police ar-

rested one of the men during the payoff five days later and the others were subsequently nabbed and the victims rescued.

Congress two weeks ago approved a bill abolishing the death penalty despite protests from relatives of crime victims, who believe Arroyo, a staunch Roman Catholic, rushed its approval to please the pope.

Arroyo, who has pushed for the abolition of the death penalty, last week said she will likely sign the law on the eve of her trip to the Vatican on Sunday.

Arroyo's first stop will be Milan before continuing to Vatican City to meet Pope Benedict XVI.

The 1987 Constitution abolished the death penalty that dictator Ferdinand Marcos' government used to execute about a dozen people convicted of rape and drug charges.

Congress restored the death penalty in late 1993 for heinous crimes such as murder, child rape and kidnapping. Seven people convicted of rape and robbery with killings have been executed since then.

Police report says no semen on condom linked to alleged rape

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A police report submitted Thursday to a court hearing a rape case against four U.S. Marines said no semen was found on a condom purportedly used in the alleged assault.

Defense lawyer Francisco Rodrigo said the police crime laboratory report "revealed the absence of seminal stain"

on the condom and the underwear of the alleged 22-year-old victim.

Lawyers for the Marines said the report cast doubt on claims by the woman that she was raped by Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith in front of three others, Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood, Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier.

The rape allegedly occurred on Nov. 1 inside a moving van at the former U.S. naval base in Subic Bay, near Olongapo city, west of Manila. The Marines had just finished counterterrorism maneuvers with Philippine troops.

The rape charge is punishable by up to 40 years in prison. The Marines have refused to answer the charge, and the judge entered a plea of innocent for them.

The lab results were attached to an investigation report by investigator Ramon Paje, who testified Thursday.

Communist rebels seize firearms

ILAGAN, Philippines (AP)—Communist guerrillas disguised as soldiers raided the home of a northern Philippine town mayor, seizing firearms but harming no one, the rebels and the military said Thursday.

About 30 New People's Army guerrillas in a commandeered dump truck and a car barged into the residence of Mayor Eulogio Agatep Jr. of Lasam in Cagayan province late Tuesday.

The rebels grabbed at least five shotguns, one M-16 rifle,

a sniper telescope and assorted ammunition from a small armory at the house, said Lt. Col. Leopoldo Galon, spokesman for the army's 5th Infantry Division.

Two suspects were arrested as soldiers and police pursued the fleeing guerrillas in the town, about 390 kilometers (244 miles) north of Manila, Galon said.

A rebel spokesman confirmed the guerrilla operation but denied that any of the raiders, disguised as soldiers, had been arrested.

Manilans most courteous in Asia, survey shows

Researchers of Reader's Digest, a popular United States-based monthly magazine, went around Metro Manila recently to conduct a Courtesy Test, staging scenarios to find out just how polite Filipinos are compared to people from 34 other cities around the world.

Manila, being one of the country's most populous cities, was chosen for staging the three scenarios. These were to see if people would hold open a door for someone, say "thank you" after making a sale, and help someone pick up papers dropped in a busy place.

Manila was number 21 out of 35 in the global ranking of the test (1st being most courteous and least courteous, 35th).

But in Asia, the region with the poorest performances, Filipinos proved to be the most polite.

"It's not normal nowadays for a woman to hold the door open for someone of the same gender," said a Filipino woman who did not hold the door for a Reader's Digest's undercover reporter. In this particular test, Manila got a global ranking near the bottom at 33rd. Only 25 percent of those tested bothered to even hold the door slightly ajar.

For the purchasing test (whether or not customers say "thank you" after making a purchase), Manila scored 65 percent for a global ranking of 23rd. In Asia, it placed fourth after Jakarta, Taipei and Singapore.

The survey found that if you dropped papers on a Manila

street, chances were someone would help you pick these up. Filipinos scored well at 55 percent for an impressive global ranking of 5th.

"It's innate for me to be helpful and courteous. There was even a time when I helped an elderly cross the street. It really matters when your parents raised you with the proper values," said Albert Magbagay, an 18-year-old student.

Filipinos could be more helpful if not for certain concerns such as the one raised by Elizabeth Yap, a self-employed 37-year-old.

"I wanted to help but I was hesitant because I was thinking, 'What if it is just another modus operandi of swindlers or pick-pockets?'" she said.

Based on overall results, New Yorkers finished first, landing on the top five in all three tests. Other high-scoring cities included Zurich, Switzerland (2nd); Toronto, Canada (3rd); and Berlin, Germany. Zagreb, Croatia and São Paulo, Brazil tied for fourth place. At the bottom of the list was Mumbai, India.

Described as providing a snapshot of behavior in various countries, more than being a scientific survey, the Courtesy Test is the world's biggest real-life test of common courtesy. More than 2,000 separate tests on actual behavior were conducted.

The Courtesy Test is fully discussed in the article "How Polite Are You?", the cover story of the July 2006 issue of Reader's Digest. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

PINOYSTYLE

Miriam says she wanted to have a baby this year

By **NINI VALERA**
INQUIRER

Miriam Quiambao assured Inquirer Entertainment that she could handle a one-on-one, but that she might refuse to answer the tough questions. After a while, though, she was showing her pain unabashedly. When the tears broke, she turned away to compose herself. Finally, she asked to be excused.

Earlier, the former beauty queen had bravely faced reporters during a press con for her “homecoming” show on GMA 7—“Pinoy Meets World,” to be co-hosted by her former “Extra Challenge” partner Paolo Bediones.

She recently separated from husband, Italian businessman Claudio Rondinelli, after almost three years of marriage and living in Hong Kong. Miriam, 31, has returned to Manila to revive her career as a television host.

She told the Inquirer that she and Claudio, 36, had been talking about having children. “Personally,” she said, “I was planning on having a baby this year. But it was just not the right time, not the right relationship.”

Miriam talked candidly about how she was coping with the split-up. Technically, she said, they were still husband and wife. They had a church wedding in Manila and

a civil wedding in Hong Kong, where Claudio is based. She said she gave up her career to live with him there.

As for the separation, Miriam said, the decision was mutual.

“We couldn’t settle our differences,” she said, adding that they just realized they were no longer who they used to be. But they were still friends, she claimed. “I was just talking to him yesterday. He’s a very good man.”

So what went wrong?

“We married prematurely, we believe,” Miriam said. “I wouldn’t want to [blame] either of us ... it’s just that we have different interests. Sobrang daming differences.”

Before the wedding, they had known each other for only a year. During that period, she said, “We would see each other only one weekend in a month. Kaya nga premature.”

Miriam admitted that she “loved the lifestyle” as Claudio’s wife in cosmopolitan Hong Kong.

“It was fantastic,” she said. “We [also] traveled a lot.”

In the second year of marriage, Miriam became “very, very homesick” (Inquirer caught up with her last year in Hong Kong. She said she had been fighting bouts of depression by

taking intermittent trips to Manila.)

Her parents have come to accept the situation, Miriam said. “In the beginning, of course, they were concerned. But they saw how unhappy we both were.”

“There were so many factors (that led to our separation),” she said. “Sobrang dami...”

And there seems to be much to settle at this point. “We’re still talking about ... things,” Miriam said. She did not elaborate.

How is she mending her broken heart?

The reply was swift and succinct: “I cry. I pray. I talk to friends and people I trust. I’m very thankful that God is still taking care of me, that in spite of this ... He has given me a job. Probably I needed to learn these big lessons. My philosophy in life is to focus not on my mistakes but on my learnings. Otherwise, I won’t get anywhere. I have to move on.”

She rejected the possibility of another relationship at this point. “The relationship I would [be inclined to] nurture [now] would be with myself.”

Shortly after the one-on-one, Miriam rushed to the airport to catch a plane for India, where she was to interview former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen for “Pinoy Meets World.”



How she's coping: “I cry. I pray. I talk to trusted friends.”

Aga is ‘Ulirang Ama’ awardee

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
INQUIRER

I’ve known Aga Muchlach long before his “Bagets” days. Now, he has adorable twin bagets of his own—4-year-old Atasha and Andres. He also has an older son, Igi Boy, with Janice de Belen. As a friend, Morning (his petname) is the kind who always makes his presence felt. He is never absent from your life. I’m touched when he calls out of the blue just to check on me when I’m embroiled in one or another controversy. If he is that attuned as a friend, you can just imagine what he’s like as a dad.

That’s why it’s no surprise that Aga received the “Ulirang Ama Award 2006” from the National Mother’s Day & Father’s Day Foundation, Inc. on June 18. Considered the most prestigious award that could be given to an outstanding Filipino father, the distinction was given to Aga for his significant achievements as an actor and father. “I’m overwhelmed,” he gushed. “This recognition means more to me than any acting award.”

Aga describes himself as a hands-on dad. “Charlene and I make sure that we are the first persons our kids see when they wake up.”

All his waking hours are truly spent being Aga—ang Ama.

Bow.

Eddie’s impact

I have always been in awe of Eddie Garcia. I remember when I used to tag along with my Mom, during her “See-True” days, that Tito Eddie’s snappy answers on the show always

made an impact on me. For instance, his take on billing concerns was, “I don’t make a fuss about billing. As long as my name is spelled correctly, that’s all that matters.”

It was such a delight to touch base with him during the presscon of “I Wanna Be Happy.” He plays a man whose wife (Gloria Romero) decides



Aga Muchlach

to leave him just when they are about to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. How would he handle such a situation if it happened to him in real life?

“I’d let her go. It’s useless to keep loving someone who no longer feels the same way for you. I’ve come this far in life to realize that you cannot force things to happen. Just let nature take its course.”

Take it from this well-respected veteran, who has always known how to go with the flow. Now his heart overflows with all the lessons he spreads around so well.

Sugar & Spice Girl

I asked Pauleen Luna how she trimmed down. “I avoid spicy food—so when I was in Singapore for a week, I could hardly eat a thing. Pumayat ako bigla!” she revealed. What about the spice in her love life? Is she really dating cager Mac Cardona of Talk and Text? She smiled, “We are just textmates, though I’d like to get to know him more.” Will they be the next show biz-PBA pair or have we had enough of hardcourt hard sell “love teams”?

Ruffa, May I?

Ruffa Mae Quinto and Erik Santos were spotted being very lovey-dovey in Esquinita. I texted Ruffa for the real score but she hasn’t replied. Either she’s too busy, or too happy, to text back. Will their budding romance finally dispel nasty rumors that Erik is gay? With Ruffa Mae’s sex appeal, how can any gay guy not turn into a mean man even just for the feel and thrill of it?

Forget her not

Does Iwa Moto have amnesia? A production staff member told me that he finds it strange that Iwa is chummy with him on the set but doesn’t seem to recognize him at all when they bump into each other elsewhere. Or are her chinky eyes causing vision problems? For a newcomer in the biz, that’s a dangerous sign. Can you picture what she’d be like, should she become a big star? She’d better be kind to all the people she meets on her way up ... because they are the same people she’ll meet on her way down.

Snooky fired from ‘Barbell’

By **NINI VALERA**
INQUIRER

“She must be on her way.”

Actually, Snooky didn’t show up.

Former child star Snooky Serna was dropped from the cast of the fantasy “Captain Barbell” for being habitually late.

Snooky, 40, briefly played the role of Barbara, mother of the super-hero played by Richard Gutierrez, in GMA 7’s adaptation of the Mars Ravelo komiks classic.

The actress’ tardiness had caused serious production delays, according to Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for TV Entertainment.

Galvante told Inquirer on Tuesday: “I don’t want to go into the details of how much money we lose every time a taping schedule is canceled, but it does cost.”

“Captain Barbell” is being produced for about P50 million.

Galvante said the problem had been relayed to her last month, even before the show premiered on May 29.

Simple

“I was in the US when I learned,” she recalled. “It was easy for us to make a decision.” That decision was to terminate Snooky’s services.

“To me, it’s simple,” Galvante said. “We gave her a break, and she wasted it.”

Snooky’s tardiness has affected the rest of the cast. It is said that Richard Gomez, who portrays Snooky’s husband in the series, was very upset once, when she showed up 12 hours late for taping. The call time was 6 a.m., but Snooky showed up at 6 p.m.

During the press con to launch the show last month, Richard made a snide remark: “It’s only 11 p.m.,” he said.

Cautious

The actress is being managed by Anabelle Rama, Richard Gutierrez’s mother, under a contract that expires in July next year.

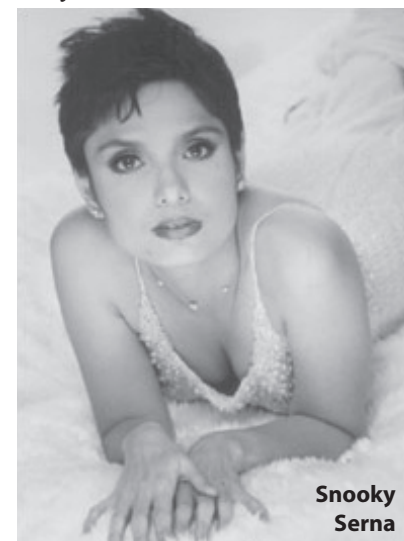
Galvante said Anabelle had been cautious about recommending Snooky for the part in “Barbell.”

“It’s not true that Annabelle pressured us into hiring Snooky,” Galvante said. “We picked Snooky from a list. She looked [perfect] for the part.”

Annabelle could not be reached for comment. But her associate, publicist Jun Lalin said Snooky could not cope with the schedule. “Hindi raw n’ya kaya (She couldn’t handle it),” Lalin told Inquirer.

Galvante stressed that tapings were “a fact of life” for TV shows. “All stars go through that,” she said.

Snooky recently married musician Niño Mendoza after her marriage to Ricardo Cepeda was annulled early this year.



Snooky Serna

In the service of the Queen

By **VERONICA UY**
INQ.7

Guess who was at the 80th birthday lunch of Queen Elizabeth II last week?

Apart from royalty and other dignitaries, a Filipina met with the British monarch for the second time. She is Lady Aurea Taguiang.

The native of Malasiqui, Pangasinan, Taguiang is the lead waitress at Mansion House, official residence of the Lord Mayor of the City of London. She served the Queen once before, when the British visited Mansion House in 1999, according to information from the British embassy in Manila.

Last May, when Lord Mayor David Brewer visited the country, he told reporters that Taguiang would again have the honor to serve the Queen during her birthday lunch on June 15.

Taguiang and her husband Alfonso earned the titles Sir and Lady in 1998. They were granted the honor of becoming Freemen of the City of London by act of the Lord Mayor and the Court of Common Council in one of the oldest surviving traditional ceremonies still in existence today; the first one is believed

to have been presented in 1237.

According to the British embassy, the medieval term “freeman” means someone who was not the property of a feudal lord, but enjoyed privileges such as the right to earn money and own land. Town dwellers protected by the charter of their town or city were often free. The ti

The titles came 12 years after Taguiang earned a post in the prestigious Mansion House in 1986; there, she has become a favorite of Lord Mayors.

As lead waitress at Mansion House, she has served Lord Mayors of London and their guests for 20 years, during which she has waited upon international leaders such as Nelson Mandela, King Hussein of Jordan, and our very own President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. She has also served notable Britons Baroness Margaret Thatcher, Princess Diana, and Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown.

According to an article from the British embassy, last week’s event stands out as extraordinary for the Filipina. “It is my greatest honor to serve the Queen. It had been my dream as a child,” she said, recalling singing rhymes about

the Queen as a young girl.

Taguiang is a senior member of the Mansion House wait staff. “The key to my success is my loyalty and my dedication to the job,” she says of her 20 years on the job.

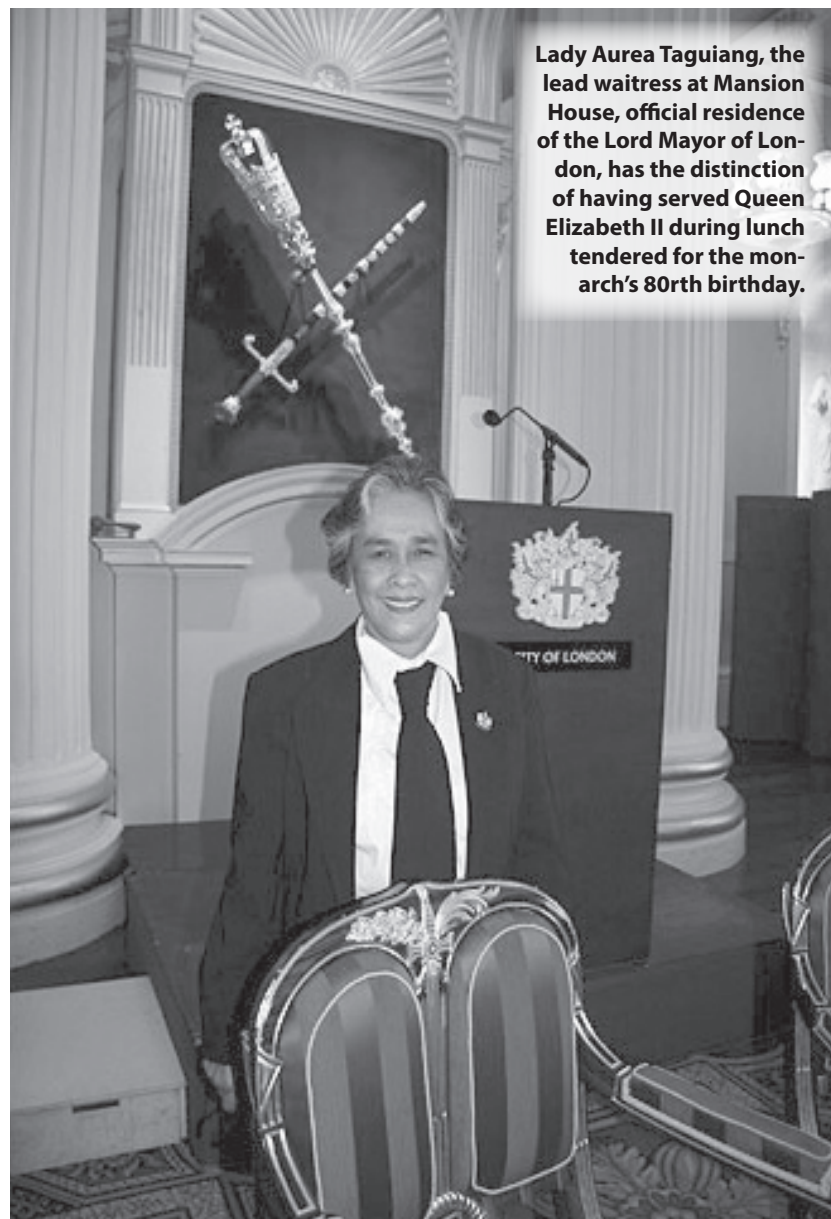
Like many Filipinos, Taguiang and her husband went abroad to look for greener pastures. In 1975, they moved to England and entered the catering industry in the hope of providing better education for their six children.

According to information provided by the embassy, the couple made the difficult decision to temporarily leave their children in the Philippines, including the youngest, who was only 11 months old at the time. When they gained solid financial footing, the Taguiangs eventually brought their four youngest children to England; the two oldest are pursuing careers in the Philippines and Canada.

Though her job involves long hours and difficult labor, Taguiang says she thoroughly enjoys her work. “After working for some time, it becomes a pleasure; it becomes a passion to serve,” she says.

Taguiang considers herself a loyal subject of the Queen, but she has never forgotten her native land. In her spare time, Taguiang organizes tours for Filipinos visiting England. Her husband Alfonso is a lifetime member of the Order of the Knights of Dr. Jose Rizal.

In this capacity, Sir and Lady Taguiang continue to honor the Philippines with their charitable work.



Lady Aurea Taguiang, the lead waitress at Mansion House, official residence of the Lord Mayor of London, has the distinction of having served Queen Elizabeth II during lunch tendered for the monarch's 80th birthday.

INQ.7

Ruffa readies \$17,000 gown for Star Awards

Ruffa Gutierrez is set to wear a \$17,000 gown, and Boy Abunda is expected to complement her glam with his brand of gab as the two host this year's 22nd Star Awards on June 30 at the Grand Ballroom of the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Gutierrez, who flew in recently from her home in Istanbul, Turkey—where she lives with her millionaire husband Ylmaz Bektas and their children Lorin and Venice—told Inquirer Entertainment that she was looking forward to the event.

“I miss my job here,” she said. “I’ve been in show biz since I was 14, and my husband understands this passion.”

Anne Curtis will be the show’s anchor.

ARG Entertainment, producer of the awards show, earlier announced that the proceedings would combine the Golden Globe and Oscars ceremonies.

Bong Ferrer will direct the show, which will be aired over Studio 23 at 10:30 p.m. on June 30.

Organizers of the Star Awards, led by Philippine Movie Press Club president Fernan de Guzman, held a press conference on Thursday to announce that Armida Siguion-Reyna is the Uli-rang Artista Awardee 2006. (*Inquirer*)



Ruffa Gutierrez poses with her new baby, Venice.

Songs about falling out of love

By **POCHOLO CONCEPCION**
INQUIRER

The booming local music scene has spilled over to include cinemas as concert venues.

At the SM Megamall, a recent gig featuring MYMP attracted a full-house crowd of teenagers, twentysomethings and young couples. Thirty minutes before show time, the line that snaked through the cinema lobby was so long, for a second we thought we were going to lose our seats.

MYMP, a pop group led by guitarist Chin Alcantara and fronted by singer Juris Fernandez, is probably the hottest

among the current crop of mel-low music acts because its latest album had reportedly gone seven times platinum—a feat in an age of rampant CD piracy.

Still the fans couldn’t get enough of the group. The Megamall show was proof.

Why would people normally attracted to artists with star quality fancy a very unassuming act like MYMP?

Fernandez’s demeanor approximates that of a shy plain Jane, so it’s got to be her voice—heartfelt, pleasing, charismatic. As for Alcantara, who hardly qualifies as a guitar hero, it would have to be his style of

playing—simple, uncluttered, affecting.

Backed by a steady rhythm section, MYMP is a recipe for feel-good vibes and romantic persuasion.

But Fernandez, after doing a cover of “Every Little Thing She Does is Magic,” a 1980s Police hit, pointed out: “This concert’s title is not quite right, because what we’re singing next are songs about falling out of love.”

What we heard next was “Nakapagtataka,” a Jim Paredes tune about failed relationships.

We deliberately mentioned the songwriters in the repertoire because Fernandez didn’t seem

to care that these covers were largely responsible for the fame MYMP has been basking in.

It was the opposite of how concert guest Nyoy Volante treated his performance. In a playful reference to the Apo, Volante introduced his jazz-inflected version of “Panalangin” by saying: “Eto galing sa mga sinaunang boy bands.”

To underscore the irony of the concert title, Volante and Fernandez proceeded to interpret an achingly sad Phil Collins original, “Separate Lives.” The crowd loved it!

In the end it all made sense. Never mind who wrote what.

Gina Pareño slugs it out with... Monica Bellucci, Julie Walters, Salma Hayek

By **MARINEL R. CRUZ**
INQUIRER

Gina Pareño, lead actress in Jeffrey Jeturian’s “Kubrador (The Bet Collector),” is set to slug it out with the likes of Julie Walters, Monica Bellucci and Salma Hayek for the Best Actress award in this year’s Moscow International Film Festival.

“Kubrador,” produced by MLR Films, will also compete for Best Picture against 16 other films from such countries as France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Italy, Israel and Japan, among others.

The Moscow IFF will run from June 23 to July 2.

“Kubrador,” which chronicles three days in the life of a bet collector (Pareño), will be screened on June 27, 6 p.m. in a 1,517-seat theater, according to Josabeth “Joji” Alonso of MLR Films.

Hayek stars in “Ask The Dust,” Bellucci in

“How Much Do You Love Me?” and Walters in “Driving Lessons.”

Other popular actors in the competition are Eva Mendez, John Malkovich, Collin Farrell, Gérard Depardieu and Rupert Grint (of the “Harry Potter” series).

Alonso, Jeturian and Pareño are scheduled to leave for Russia on Thursday to join the festival events. They will return to Manila on July 5.

Alonso also told Inquirer Entertainment that “Kubrador” had accepted another invitation to compete at the Osian’s Cinefan Festival of Asian Cinema in New Delhi, India.

This festival starts on July 14 and ends on the 23rd. Jeturian and Pareño have been invited as the film’s representatives and have each been assured of an all-expense-paid trip, added Alonso.

“Kubrador,” written by Ralston G. Jover, is also being invited to the annual Pusan International Film Festival in South Korea

and the Hawaii International Film Festival in Honolulu.

Invite for ‘Cogon’

Meanwhile, Rico Maria Ilarde’s “Sa Ilalim ng Cogon” has just been invited to the Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival in Korea next month.

The Puchon festival offers “alternative films in the genre of science fiction, fantasy, and horror from all around the world,” according to a website of the European Fantastic Film Festival Federation. It starts on July 13 and ends July 20.

“Cogon” has participated in numerous film fests, including the 2006 Fribourg International Film Fest, Cinenygm Luxembourg International Film Festival and Far East Film Festival in Udine, Italy. At the 2005 Buenos Aires Rojo Sangre Fantasy/Horror Film Festival in Argentina, the movie won Best International Feature.

OPINYON

Int'l law constraints in Arroyo's war

It has been said that “war is the vanishing point of law,” and that before the power of arms, the laws are silent. But, mercifully for all of us, the civilized world has evolved basic ground rules. It disavows the “just war” theory, by which we purported to adjudge the causes of war, as in the old days when crusaders held aloft the banner of one god as against the infidels.

Having forsaken the thorny “whys” of waging war, it shifts rather to the conduct of hostilities. The means of fighting, the “how,” is “not unlimited,” to use the lawyers’ double negative, and there are legal constraints to war. This body of law is known as international humanitarian law (IHL), and it is administered worldwide by a neutral organization that, over the past century, has earned the world’s respect, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the New People’s Army (NPA), for their own sakes, ought to know that it is actually in their best interest to respect the “Law of Armed Conflict.”

After Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared her “all-out war” to decimate the Left, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez blithely acknowledged that in the course of the campaign, “You can’t avoid collateral damage ... Sometimes there are bombings and civilians might get hurt.” That statement is most worrisome, coming as it does from the highest levels of government. While it can purport to be a mere statement of fact, nay, of being resigned to the sad realities of fighting the NPA’s “protracted war” in the countryside, it betrays a certain indifference to the human costs of politico-

military decisions.

Fundamental to IHL is the principle of “distinction.” All parties to a conflict must at all times distinguish between civilians and combatants. Attacks may not be directed against civilians and, in the words of a famous international law case, “the only legitimate object [in war] is to weaken the military forces of the enemy.”

I can imagine the justice secretary saying that these nice legal distinctions are difficult to apply in the field. After all, Chairman Mao himself called war “this monster of mutual slaughter among men,” and thus his famous dictum: “A revolution is not a dinner party.” It cannot be so refined and neat. But while the Philippine Left may have oohed and aahed when those words were uttered by Mao himself, I shudder to think how they would react now that parallel arguments come from the mouth of the justice secretary. Imagine him saying: “Counterinsurgency is not a soiree or a romantic rendezvous.”

(I once gave an IHL lecture in an ICRC forum held in Xi’an, China, and hey, it was held at the political academy of the Peoples’ Liberation Army, I suppose, ground zero of political correctness during their heady days of revolutionary zeal. My Chinese academic colleagues were surprised when I quoted Mao. Some must have felt that I was 25 years too late. Others, I am sure, wondered how this barbarian learned of Mao’s writings out here in the boondocks so far away from the Middle Kingdom. Oh, if only I could describe to them what it was to study Political Science in the

University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, in the mid-1970s.)

Indeed, that is why IHL is superior to traditional “international human rights” rules in ensuring human dignity during armed conflict. Human rights are obligations owed by states to people. The New People’s Army is not a state, and only the Philippine government is bound (an “asymmetrical” obligation, in lawyer talk). Contrast this to IHL, which creates obligations owed by armed groups to one another, in our case, between the Philippine State and a “non-State party” like the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA.

Both sides must scrupulously respect the principle of “distinction.” Gonzalez may say that yeah, civilians might die during bombings, but he must remember that some objects are *prima facie* civilian: towns, villages, residential areas, schools, hospitals, indeed, even cultural and historical property and even the natural environment (recall Saddam Hussein’s men burning oil wells as they retreated during Operation Desert Storm).

The government may blame the NPA’s “peoples’ war” strategy. Guerrilla warfare relies precisely upon the mobilization of entire villages and on the blurring of the distinction between combatants and non-combatants. But IHL protection remains “unless and [only] for such time as they



Passion For Reason

By RAUL PANGALANGAN
INQUIRER

take a direct part in hostilities,” and the government merely falls into a trap when it deems sympathizers as combatants.

Conversely, it behooves the Left as well to demonstrate good faith in honoring their IHL obligations. It doesn’t help their cause for Joma Sison to justify the killings of breakaway Left leaders as

part of revolutionary justice. But how different is it to classify Romy Kintanar, apparently a “resigned” NPA commander, as fair game for armed attack (he was killed while eating in a Japanese restaurant at the Quezon Circle) from Gonzalez’s warrantless arrests of leftists under the “continuing crime” logic that “once a rebel, always a rebel”? The government may say the real difference is that one was shot in cold blood, while the government’s victims were merely arrested. But given the disappearances and killings of the legal Left on an almost daily basis, I am no longer sure if there is any real difference in the fate of the victims.

Both sides must realize that what they are fighting is a battle for the hearts and minds of the Filipino nation. It cannot be won by either side dissipating their claims to legitimacy. Arroyo aims to win brownie points by leading a McCarthyist witch hunt. The Left can succeed only by showing us who in the end is the real witch.

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Ads in the 19th century

Observing the television viewing habits of my nephew and nieces, I noticed that when a program is on they watch for a while and then, when their short attention span is gone, they play with their toys. When the commercials come on, they drop what they are doing and seem glued to the screen. When the program returns, they go back to their toys.

In contrast, adults are drawn to the program rather than the commercials, and they take the commercial break to go to the bathroom or make calls.

The target audience of commercials is people who have the money to buy the products advertised, but they aren’t drawn to the ads as much as children. At home, I ignore TV ads, but when I’m abroad, even in countries whose language I do not understand, I find the TV commercials engaging. I sometimes surf all the cable channels in search of foreign TV ads and end up disappointed.

My job often takes me to libraries where I consult old newspapers. I look at these and remember my grandmother in Pampanga province supervising the maids as they spent the whole afternoon turning old newspapers into “supot” [paper bags] for sale in the local public market.

Today, we all use plastic, and I wonder what my “lola” [grandmother] would have done with her old newspapers if she were alive. Old newspapers are recycled or thrown away, or used in household cleaning chores. Nobody wants stale news, except historians who use yesterday’s news and turn it into history today.

Newspapers take up a lot of space and generate a lot of dust, so most libraries have these transferred to microfilm or to a digital format for easier access and better storage.

While I enjoy using a microfilm reader, there is still the thrill of handling something old. For this, I go to the Lopez Memorial Museum on

the ground floor of the Benpres building because the basement is bursting with old periodicals. For some strange reason, old newspaper storage rooms are referred to as a “morgue,” which seems quite apt in this case because it is reputedly haunted.

If you want to use whole newspapers or magazines, you can do that. But if you are in a hurry, you can go through shelves of newspaper clippings arranged by subject, with the help of the wonderful librarians, Mercy and Elvie, who know the place like the back of their wrinkled hands.

I go there for pre-martial law material. The photo file is excellent. But since my area of interest is the late 19th century, I ask to see what they have from this period. One time, I went through copies of “La ilustracion del Oriente” dating way back to 1877.

What material from this era could possibly be interesting to readers in 2006? The advertisements. There was a Botica de D.P. Sartorius (whose name reminded me of Dr. Waterous of the famous Waterous Hospital in San Juan town).

The “botica” [drugstore] was advertising the celebrated men’s hair tonic called “tinte seguro de Dr. Barry” or its other form “tinte negro de Dr. Barry.” For the ladies, it was “Crema de perlas de Dr. Barry,” a special facial cream made of pearls that improved the complexion and made matrons of 45 years instantly look like a maiden of 20. (This reminded me of my father’s remark that when a woman turns 40, the husband changes her for two 20s.) The woman’s hair tonic was called “el tricofero de Barry” and it kept hair from falling and maintained its luster. Dr. Barry also made a toothpaste called “La marfilina de Barry” that made teeth shine like ivory. It contained no acids and was said to be of an agreeable taste or flavor. (We have a wide assortment of

similar products today, so then as now we are interested in health and beauty products.)

The newspaper told us that Botica de San Gabriel sold a potent “vino tonico,” made from concentrated essence of sarsaparilla, that purified and regenerated the blood. Men’s shoes were available from M. Secker y Compania on Escolta. They were imported from Europe and arrived on board the steamship Salvadora, the same ship Rizal and many others took at the end of the last century.

If you wanted duck meat (“carne de aves acuaticas”), you went to Pateros. If that was too far away from where you lived, you just took a boat on the Pasig River between the Santa Ana area of Manila and Taguig town and you would find the same ducks and duck eggs though not as much as you would find in Pateros town, hence its name that was derived from “patos” [ducks].

If you wanted turkey, you went to Malate in Manila, San Pedro Makati, or San Nicolas near the Pasig River. But the best turkeys were found in Manila’s Pandacan area, where peanuts were also grown as in Parañaque.

You would find “bordadoras” [embroiderers] in Tondo, “sastres” [dressmakers] in Sampaloc, “cajistas” [compositors] in Mancajistas, Mandaluyong; “lavanderas” [laundrywomen] and ollas in San Pedro Makati, “tapaderas” [lid makers], “escultores” [sculptors] and “plateiros” [silversmiths] in Sta. Cruz and “costureras” [female tailors] in Paco.

Reading through these 19th-century ads made me wonder whether some Manila street names were also a form of advertisement: Jaboneros [soap makers], Prensa [press], Soda [fizzy water], Fundador [foundry worker], Fumadores [smokers of tobacco and opium], Ylang-ylang (that marked the place where the fragrant flower was processed) or Plateria [silversmith]. One has to be sensitive to words and place names, for these often convey some sort of history, some story that we are often too busy to notice.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

How to undermine national interest

Instead of strengthening the nationalist restrictions of the law, instead of saving the economy from its deathbed, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her lackeys are now moving heaven and earth to change the supreme law of the land—to allow 100-percent exploitation of the country’s resources and 100-percent ownership of critical industries, such as education and mass media, banking and health, among others.

Arroyo’s Charter change would do away with the remaining nationalist provisions of our present Constitution. These provisions forbid foreign multinationals from siphoning off our national wealth. Arroyo’s Charter change only frustrates the people’s hopes about genuine political and economic reforms.

The masses’ voice about the Charter change has been distorted in the anomalous plebiscite signature drive led by the Arroyo administration. If anything, the plebiscite only “justifies” the malversation of public money, and all for ensuring that the political elite will stay in power.

Arroyo’s Charter change is nothing but a hodgepodge of neocolonial and fascist maneuverings that undermine the people’s genuine democratic and nationalist yearnings.

We may need to draft a new Charter but Arroyo’s Charter change is definitely not what we need. What we need is a Charter that will uphold genuine democracy, one that is founded on the real aspirations of our people. So why not let a transition council composed of people’s leaders do the Charter change—a council of sincere leaders advancing the interests of workers, of the peasants, of the students and of the people in general.

I would certainly put my bet on grassroots sector leaders rather than on the same old rotten, cheating and lying politicians who are in government right now.

Nasser Marohomsalic

Union of Muslims for Morality and Truth-White Ribbon Movement
North Fairview, Quezon City



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
INQUIRER

SAMU'T SARI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



KRIS LAWRENCE FANS

The United Filipino Organization presents a certificate of recognition to "Star in a Million" champion Kris Lawrence during a sponsors' dinner last Monday at Capricciosa Restaurant. Lawrence and Roselle Nava and held a concert at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman on Saturday, June 17.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SPONSORS' NIGHT

Officers and members of the United Filipino Organization led by its president, Corie Borja, left seated, are joined by Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL Maximo during a sponsors' dinner last Monday at Capricciosa Restaurant, where they presented certificates of recognition to Roselle Nava and "Star in a Million" champion Kris Lawrence. The two held a concert at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman on Saturday, June 17.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A WELCOME SIGHT

Filipino organization CNMI Power, together with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, help clean up this welcome sign near the airport. Picture shows the members of the group posing with CNMI Power president Corie Borja, fourth from right, and Chamber executive director Christine Parke, right, after the cleanup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SAYAW SA BANGKO

Members of the CNMI Power perform the traditional Philippine dance "Sayaw sa Bangko" during a Liberation Day presentation on June 15 at the Garapan Fishing Base. The group performed for the Filipino Night celebration.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



TINIKLING

Members of the CNMI Power perform the traditional Philippine dance "Tinikling" during a Liberation Day presentation on June 15 at the Garapan Fishing Base. The group performed for the Filipino Night celebration.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NIGHT WITH ROSELLE

The United Filipino Organization presents a certificate of recognition to Roselle Nava during a sponsors' dinner last Monday at Capricciosa Restaurant. Nava and "Star in a Million" champion Kris Lawrence held a concert at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman on Saturday, June 17.

LIBERTY DONES



A GRAND EXPERIENCE

Roselle Nava poses with the staff of the Saipan Grand Hotel and Century Tours during her first day on Saipan. Nava was on island last week for her concert with "Star in a Million" champion Chris Lawrence.

LIBERTY DONES



SOUVENIR SHOT

Philippine singer Roselle Nava, second from right, poses here with hosts and friends, from left, Aims Quito-Weiss, Belle Grandinetti, her brother Ramon Nava, and Jerry Alcantara at Club V, Saipan Grand Hotel.

Maharlika
PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

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